

Appropriations
Committee

Department of
Children &
Families

February 23,
2022

Connecticut Department of Children & Families

ARPA Initiatives to Address Children's Behavioral Health



CHILD FIRST EXPANSION

\$10,200,000

Expansion of the Child First network to ensure continuity, addressing educational disparities and promoting healthy childhood environments. Child First is an intensive, therapeutic home visiting program that works with parents and families with young children, birth to 6.

- ❖ Funding & additional network capacity to 14 Child First providers
- ❖ \$5,100,000 (annually for 2 years)
- ❖ Initiative fully implemented and operational

MOBILE CRISIS SERVICE EXPANSION

\$2,000,000

Expansion of Mobile Crisis network to provide 24/7 response. Mobile Crisis services provide community-based rapid emergency crisis stabilization to children and their families along with brief follow-up care to promote continued stabilization and linkage with ongoing supports and services within the community.

- ❖ Funding & expansion of hours of operation to 3 Mobile Crisis providers, each covering 2 DCF Regions
- ❖ Procurement completed / Contract and services under negotiation with awarded providers
- ❖ Anticipated Implementation Date: April 1, 2022

INTENSIVE CARE MANAGEMENT

\$2,000,000

Intensive Transitional Care Management services are designed to expedite and facilitate the timely and safe transition of children from acute or subacute levels of care to the community, continuing case management activities for 8-12 weeks post step-down.

- ❖ Funding for services to 480 families annually, through 5 provider contracts.
- ❖ Procurement completed / Contracts in signature process
- ❖ Anticipated Implementation Date: March 1, 2022

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH URGENT CRISIS CENTER

\$4,000,000

Urgent Crisis Centers will operate as an emergency department diversion program. The program will accept up to 12 referrals daily, operating 23 hours per day, 7 days per week.

- ❖ Service design being finalized.
- ❖ Procurement document being drafted.
- ❖ Anticipated Implementation Date: July 1, 2022

URBAN TRAUMA INTERVENTION

\$2,000,000

This service will create a network of providers trained on racial trauma and best intervention practices for supporting youths of color through the provision of mental health services through a racial justice lens.

- ❖ Service design being finalized for 6-12 providers.
- ❖ Procurement document being drafted.
- ❖ Anticipated Implementation Date: June 1, 2022

Contract and RFP Process Overview

- ❖ Funds budgeted for improvements must be distributed following state laws and procedures to ensure appropriate fiscal controls and oversight
- ❖ Existing contracts must be properly amended and executed
- ❖ New programs (BHUCC, Stabilization Centers) must be appropriately posted and vetted
- ❖ DCF consulted community providers on funding needs and determination of gaps in the behavioral health service array
- ❖ ARPA funding must be reconciled with the federal rules

Contract and RFP Process

TOUCHPOINT	SUMMARY	TIMEFRAME
Planning & Service Development	Design of the service, identification of key components, analysis of need, determination of capacity	2-4 weeks
RFP Drafting & Finalization	Writing the RFP, determining procurement schedule	2 weeks
OPM Request & Approval	Required per statute (any contract in excess of \$50,000)	1 week * <i>(completed concurrent to 2 week RFP drafting period)</i>
Scope of Service Development & OAG Approval	Drafting of contract scope and review by OAG (required for any contract in excess of \$25,000)	2 weeks * <i>(completed concurrent to 2 week RFP drafting period)</i>
RFP Evaluation Plan Development & Approval	Required per OPM Procurement Standards. Designates RFP Evaluation Committee, scoring criteria and establishes operating guidelines for the RFP	1 week * <i>(completed concurrent to 2 week RFP drafting period)</i>
RFP Release & Process	Posting to CT Source, newspapers and DCF website. RFP process (Bidders Conference, Questions & Answers, Letter of Intent, Proposal submission)	7 weeks

Contract and RFP Process (Cont.)

TOUCHPOINT	SUMMARY	TIMEFRAME
Proposal Review & Evaluation	Review and scoring of proposals by Evaluation Team	2 weeks
Proposal Award	Review and Award by Commissioner	1 week
Contract Negotiations	Negotiation of contract with awardee(s)	1 week
Contract & Budget Development	Assembly of contract and budget completion by provider	1 week
Contract Signature	Signature by provider, DCF and OAG	1-2 weeks
Contract Execution & Payment	---	---

Timeline from Identification of Funding to Release of Funding: 20 weeks (4-5 months)